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January 16, 2007

C. J. Merritt  
Supreme Court Clerk  
P. O. Box 40929  
Olympia, Washington 98504-0929

CLERK

RECEIVED  
SUPREME COURT  
STATE OF WASHINGTON  
07 JAN 19 AM 8:25

Re: Proposed Rule GR 14.1

Dear Mr. Merritt:

The proposed Rule GR 14.1 strikes at one of my pet peeves. Since we pay the appellate courts to render decisions, and since those decisions are now readily available through Westlaw and the other electronic publishing services, I don't see any reason not to allow citation to those opinions.

If Division III decides a case in an unpublished opinion that is factually indistinguishable from a case that I am working on in Division III, what reason would I have to think that the Court of Appeals would not decide the second case the same way they decided the first one?

I really don't understand the reason for unpublished opinions. If they are just a shortcut way of doing shoddy work, they should be discouraged. If they are pearls of judicial wisdom, they should be published, or at least we should be allowed to cite to them.

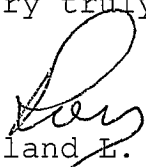
At a minimum, if this rule is going to proceed into effect, I think the Supreme Court, or the committee in charge of the comments ought to make it clear to those of us out here in the hinterlands, who apparently aren't bright enough to understand

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the reason for unpublished opinions, just why they are allowed to exist, and why they should be kept a closely guarded secret.

Thank you for your attention.

Very truly yours,



Roland E. Skala

RLS:tmp